

Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)



NRCS has introduced a new program under the 2006 Colorado EQIP Invasive Plant Program to address this particular weed.



Features:

- A hardy, fast-growing tree introduced from Europe
- Member of the Oleaster family
- Tree may reach heights from 10 to 25 feet
- Trunks and branches are armed with 1 to 2 inch woody thorns
- Leaves are covered with small scales which give the foliage a distinctive silvery appearance
- The fruit is berry-like, and is silvery when first formed but turns brown at maturity
- Aromatic, creamy-yellow flowers appear in midsummer
- Silvery yellow-to-brown pea-sized olives (drupes) are found at the end of a short stem singly or in pairs on either side of the main stem

How YOU Can Help

- ✓ Learn to identify invasive plant species in your area.
- ✓ Report sightings of invasive species to your local county or land management agency.
- ✓ Do not pick wildflowers or plants. They may be invasive species and picking them can spread their seeds.
- ✓ Check local weed lists before you buy plants for your garden or yard.
- ✓ Clean all camping gear, clothing, and shoes before leaving an area to avoid inadvertently taking seeds along with you to the next campsite.
- ✓ Always stay on designated trails when camping or hiking, avoiding weed infested areas.
- ✓ Drive only on established roads or trails away from weed infested areas.

For more information on the identification and control of noxious weeds contact your local NRCS and Conservation District Office.